once, and that after Dinner, when we came down from Mount *Veſuvius*. The Account I have herein given is all I could particularly remember in the Evening when we came home. They are continually finding more Pictures every Day; and I do aſſure you, that had I a Month to ſpare, I would willingly go on Foot to *Naples*, to have the Pleaſure of ſtudying thoſe I have already ſeen, and ſeeing thoſe which have been diſcovered ſince. *

N. B. Cardinal *Albani*, at *Rome*, has an antique Group of *Theſeus* and the *Minotaur*; where the *Minotaur* has the Head only of a Bull, as in the Picture above-mentioned.

II. *A Letter from Mr.* G. Stovin *to his Son, concerning the Body of a* Woman, *and an* antique Shoe, *found in a Moraſs in the* Iſle *of* Axholm *in* Lincolnſhire.

Read Oct. 22. 1747.

THE Beginning of *June* laſt, a labouring Man, of *Amcotts* in the Iſle of *Axholm*, in the County of *Lincoln*, was digging Turf or Peat in the Moors of *Amcotts*; and, at about ſix Foot from the Surface, his Spade cut the Toe of a Sandal, which dropped into the Pit he was graveing Peat in; alſo Part of the Foot dropp'd in, which terrified the Man, and he left it. Hearing of this Diſcovery, I went and took ſome Servants with me, to make further Diſcovery; when we ſoon found the other Sandal (which I now ſend you

---

* See more of theſe Curioſities in theſe *Tranſ.* N°. 456 and 458.

you whole and firm). It was very ſoft and pliable, and of a tawny Colour, with all the Bones of that Foot in it, and all the griſly Part of the Heel: And proceeding further, we found the Skin and Thigh-Bones, which I meaſured to be eighteen Inches long. We then found all the Skin of the lower Parts of the Body, which was of the ſame Colour of the Sandals, and very ſoft, with freſh Hair upon it, *&c.* which diſtinguiſh'd it to be a Woman, The Skin drew or ſtretch'd like a Piece of Doe-Leather, and was as ſtrong. We then found the Skin of the Arms, which was like the Top of a Muff or Glove, when the Bones were ſhaken out. We then found this Hand I have ſent, with the Nails as freſh as any Perſon's living; which are now, both Hand and Nails, ſhrunk very much, ſince it was expoſed to the Air: This Hand is the Lady's natural Skin ſo tann'd, with the Nails. We left the Bones in the Fingers, where the Nails are, for fear the Nails ſhould drop off, if that Joint was taken out.

I want to be informed what Age they wore thoſe Sandals in. Theſe muſt, I think, be very antient, and have moſt certainly been made of a raw Hide, by reaſon they, and the Skin of the Lady, were both of one Colour, and both had one Tanner; which I preſume, is the Moor-Water; which is exactly of the Colour of Coffee; and made ſo by reaſon of ſuch great Quantities of Oak and Fir-Wood, that we frequently dig out of theſe Moors; ſeveral Oak-Trees affording 1000 Pales for fencing, five Feet and an half long, and ſix to eight Inches broad; which Oak-Wood is rated as black as Jet. The Fir-Wood retains its Turpentine-Smell, and in hot Weather (when

(when it is expoſed to the Sun) the Turpentine will drop from it. This Wood is frequently riven into Laths for the Roofs of Houſes or Floors; and what is remarkable, no Worm will touch them. The Pales mentioned above are ſold from 10 to 15 Shillings *per* hundred. We frequently find Hazle nuts and Fir-Apples in Abundance; which I think is a plain Proof, that the Trees fell in Autumn, when the Fruits were at Maturity. I think Dr. *Shuckford* makes it plainly appear that the General Flood happen'd in Autumn.

This Lady in all Probability was overwhelmed by ſome ſtrong Eddy of Water; for ſhe lay upon one Side bended, with her Head and Feet almoſt together.

It appears by the Maps of the Country, that this has been the Rendezvous of all the Waters from the South, Weſt, and North Parts of the Kingdom; as for Inſtance, the River *Dun*, from *Doncaſter*, *Rotherham*, and *Sheffield*, which took in many more Streams; as the *Idle*, *Trent*, *Torn*, *Dare*, *Rother*, &c. &c. Then the River *Trent*, which runs South to *Gainsbrough*; then to *Torkſey*, *Newark*, *Nottingham*, *Derby*, *Burton* upon *Trent*, *Strafford*, *Trentham* in *Staffordſhire*: And takes in a vaſt Number of Rivulets: Then the *Ouſe*, which comes from near *Richmond*, and takes in the *Ure*, *Wharf*, *Biſhop's Dike*, *Aire*, *Calder*, and a great Number of Rivulets; which are all loſt in that famous Eſtuary the *Humber*.

It is alſo to be obſerved, that here is one Moraſs twenty Miles round, Part in *Hatfield-Chace*; another ten Miles round in the ſame Chace, where the

the famous *William* of *Lindham* had his Cell. In the middle of it, where his Body was found, for eight Miles round, is all a Moraſs.

The Connoiſſeurs will give you their Opinion in the chief thing I want to know, which is, in what Age thoſe Sandals were worn, and by what Nation: For it is not like the *Scots* or *Iriſh* Broges; though the *Scots*, I think, formerly inhabited but a little Way off, *to wit*, North of *Humber*. Perhaps the *Danes* may wear ſuch, or the antient *Saxons*; for both theſe People muſt be well acquainted with theſe Parts, as the *Danes* under *Edgar-Atheling* incamped a whole Winter in this Neighbourhood, and had a Station at *Gigansburgh*, now *Gainsbrough*, upon this River *Trent*.

At *Boxby* was a famous *Roman* Pavement, 15 Yards ſquare, the *Roman* Road, *&c.*; alſo a ſquare Platform at *Aldbrough*, which I take to be *Roman*, though no Diſcoveries have as yet been made there; but at *Roxby* large Quantities of *Roman* Coins have been found. I am

Your ever affectionate Father,

G. Stovin.

P. S. As to this Water upon theſe Moors preſerving human Bodies *, it is moſt certain; *viz.* Part of a Body taken up at *Geel* by your Grandfather Mr. *Empſon* 50 or 60 Years ago, and one in the great Moor near *Thorn*, about 7 Years ago, with the Skin like tann'd Leather, the Hair,

* See theſe *Tranſ.* No. 434. *p.* 413.

Hair, Teeth, and Nails quite freſh. —You will ſee the Sandal * is of one Piece of Leather, and a Seam at the Heel, with a Thong of the ſame Leather. *See* TAB. I. *Fig.* 2. and 3.

It is the Skin of the Hand that is ſtuff'd, which has ſuffer'd by the Spade. †

III.

---

* Mr. *Catesby* F. R. S. Author of the Hiſtory of *Carolina*, &c. being preſent, ſaid, this Shoe or Sandal was exactly like what the *Indians* in *Virginia* wear at this Day, and call *Mokaſin*.

†That ingenious Artiſt and skilful Antiquary Mr. *Geo. Vertue* communicated to me (*C. M.*) his Sentiments concerning this Sandal in the following Words:

'When the above Letter was read at the *Society of Antiquaries*, 'there was produced a Hand of the Woman therein mentioned, 'and a Sandal or Shoe taken from one of her Feet; it being made 'of Leather, tann'd Ox-Hyde; but remarkable for being cut out 'of one flat Piece, (ſee *Fig.* 3.) ſo as to fold about the Foot and 'Heel; the Form and make being ſo contriv'd without under Heel-'Piece, as to be flat to tread on; the Shape, that of a Woman's 'Foot, and the Toe round-pointed. This being of an antient 'Form, the Society order'd an exact Draught to be taken of both 'that and the Hand; which Drawings are preſerved amongſt 'others belonging to that Society. It may be obſerved concerning 'the Antiquity and Uſe of Leather Shoes in *England*, that this 'Shoe or Sandal appears by its Form to be ancient. I conceive it 'was before *Edward* the IV.'s Time, when, by Cuſtom, piked 'Shoes had increaſed in Length, that all ſuch who wore 'them in exceſſive Length were to be mulcted, or have them 'cut ſhorter, in paſſing in or out of the City-Gates of *London*. 'This very likely had paſſed amongſt the better ſort of People 'about the Kingdom; for *Chaucer* in his Time mentions the Uſe 'of long piked Shoes, ſo long as to be tied up by Strings or ſmall 'Chains to their Knees.

'Thus it might have been with Mens Shoes, but not in ſo long 'a Degree for Womens Uſe; tho' obſerving antient Pictures of 'Men and Women in Books of Illuminations, piked Shoes appear 'in ſeveral Reigns from *Ed.* III. to *Rich.* III. in *England*.

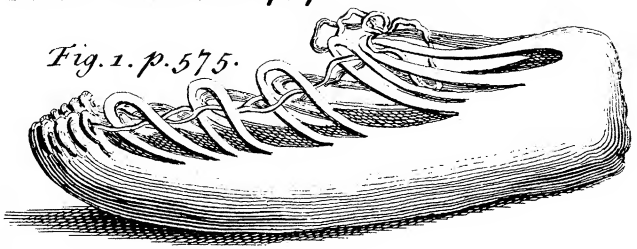

Fig. 1. p. 575.

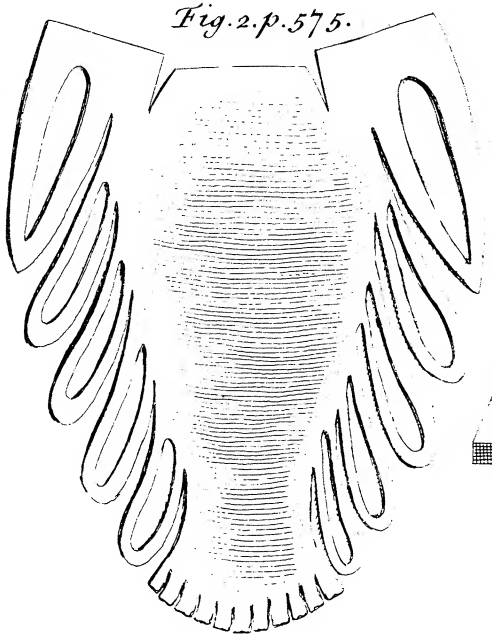

Fig. 2. p. 575.

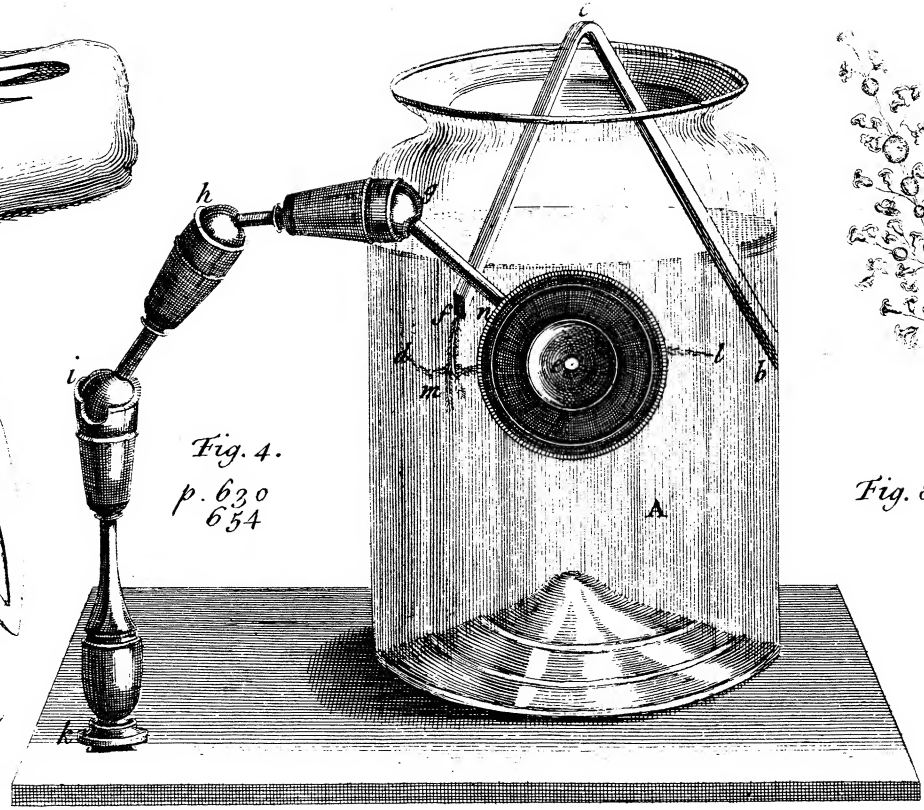

Fig. 4. p. 630 654

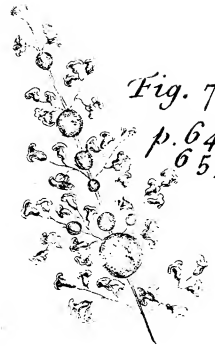

Fig. 7. p. 644 655

Fig. 8. p. 646 655

Fig. 6. p. 639. 655.

Fig. 9. p. 655.

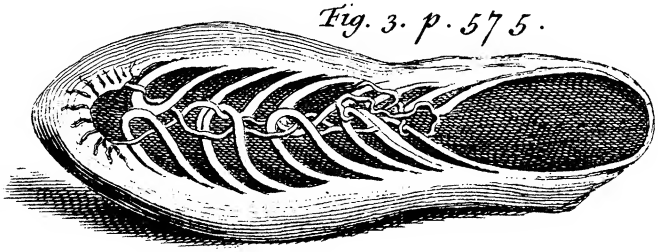

Fig. 3. p. 575.

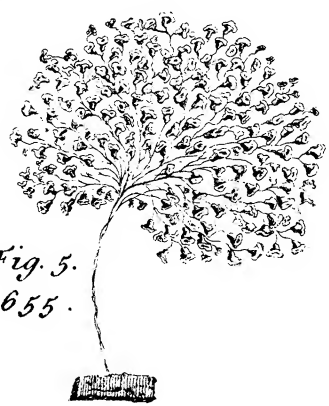

Fig. 5. p. 655.

Fig. 10. p. 655.

J. Munde sc.